

EXHIBIT NO. 1DATE: 1-17-07BILL NO. SB 32

January 17, 2007

To: Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee

Regarding: SB 32 A bill for an act entitled "An act authorizing the local or long term care ombudsman to enter a long-term care facility at any time . . ."

From: Montana Nurses Association prepared by Milly Gutkoski, RN

**Support SB32.**

This bill was discussed with an RN that is the Director of Nursing at one of the Bozeman Nursing Homes. Her comment was this absolutely should be allowed. The ombudsman is an advocate for the nursing home residents and must have the opportunity to visit the facility and the resident at ANY TIME.

The Bill was also discussed with a local ombudsman. She also was in total support of this bill. The ombudsmen in this area have 20 facilities to cover in a 3 county area and it is not convenient to go to the facility during "visiting hours".

Many residents do not have family in the area or the family are not comfortable with making complaints so it falls to the ombudsman to deal with the facility. To resolve some problems it might require a visit at odd hours depending on the situation.

With the horror stories often heard regarding nursing homes and assistive living facilities access to these institutions must be 24/7 for the ombudsman.

If nursing homes and assistive living facilities are providing appropriate care for their residents they would not object to this bill.

Thank you,  
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